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CIA Post to Raborn, Polaris Sub Developer

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From The Register's
Washington Bureau

JOHNSON CITY, TEX. President Johnson Sunday named Vice-Admiral William F. Raborn, jr., developer of the Polaris missile submarine, to be the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Raborn, who retired from active naval service in 1963, will replace John A. McCone, who is expected to retire soon.

The President made the surprise announcement after he signed the \$1.3-billion education bill here.

Raborn was a weekend guest at the LBJ

Ranch and his presence—first noted by newsmen when he attended church with Mr. Johnson—had led to speculation he was slated for the CIA post.

McCONE

Deputy Director



William F. Raborn
Replaces McCone

The President also announced he will appoint Richard Helms, 52, now deputy director for plans of CIA, to be the new deputy director of the agency—the No. 2 post. The job is now held by Air Force Lt. Gen. Marshall Carter.

The shake-up in the top command of CIA had been expected. McCone, 62, who himself came out of retirement to take over in the wake of the 1961 Bay of Pigs incident, has long made plain his desire to return to private life.

Raborn, 59, a decorated naval aviator and combat officer in World War II, is a native Texan who was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1944.

His greatest service accomplishment was his management of the "crash" program that developed the Navy's Polaris ballistic missile submarine and the weapons that arm it.

He will be the second retired naval officer to head the CIA in its 18-year history. The first CIA director was Admiral Roscoe Hilsenkoetter, who was followed by Army Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and two civilians, Allen W. Dulles and McCone.

Difficult Search

Raborn's appointment ends a difficult search by the President, who has been under pressure from McCone to find a successor.

He had been in the Navy's Southwest Coast.

to Viet Nam, or Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach would be tapped. But Mr. Johnson kept Katzenbach at the Justice Department and within the past week quietly let it be known that Taylor would not be shifted to CIA.

Raborn's appointment is certain to cause renewed controversy over the selection of military men for top posts in the CIA and other agencies.

Whatever criticism there is may be muted, however, by the parallel selection of a civilian—Helms—to replace a military man as deputy director. General Carter has been in that post since early in the Eisenhower administration.

Raborn's selection presumably was based in major part on his brilliant record as the manager of the complex Polaris program, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Running the CIA also is a key managerial task, since the agency operates an extremely wide range of programs from scientific research and overt intelligence collection to cloak-and-dagger operations.

Thus Raborn's managerial talents and his scientific skill will come in handy. Since his retirement from the Navy, he has been vice-president for program management of Aerojet General Corp., which manufactures missile engines on the West Coast.

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